

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Reference is made to commonly assigned, co-pending U.S.

Patent Applications:

~~Serial~~ Publication Number [\_\_\_\_\_] 2003/0099815 by Dontula et al.,  
(Docket 82056) filed of even date herewith entitled "Ethoxylated Alcohol  
Intercalated Smectite Materials and Method";

~~Serial~~ Publication Number [\_\_\_\_\_] 2003/0100656 by Majumdar et al.  
(Docket 82857) filed of even date herewith entitled "Smectite Clay Intercalated  
with Polyether Block Polyamide Copolymer"; and

~~Serial~~ Publication Number [\_\_\_\_\_] 2003/1418918 by Dontula et al.,  
(Docket 82859) filed of even date herewith entitled "Article Utilizing Block  
Copolymer Intercalated Clay", the disclosures of which are incorporated herein.--